

MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION
Monday, January 27, 2014 - 2:00 P.M.
University of Detroit Mercy Law School
Meeting Room 226
631 East Jefferson Avenue
Detroit, Michigan 48226

MINUTES

PRESENT: Commissioner Agustin Arbulu
Commissioner Rasha Demashkieh
Commissioner Arthur Horwitz
Commissioner Deloris Hunt
Commissioner Mike Zelle
Linda Lee Tarver – NEW COMMISSIONER

EXCUSED: Commissioner Linda Gobler
Commissioner Jared Rodriguez

I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Commissioner Mike Zelle called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.; welcoming remarks were brought by Professor David Koelsch and State Representative Rashida Tlaib.

II. INDUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONER, LINDA LEE TARVER

Ms. Tarver took the Oath of Office and was sworn-in as a Commissioner for the Michigan Civil Rights Commission by Commissioner Zelle. Commissioner Tarver succeeds Lisa Peeples-Hurst, and her term expires December 31, 2017.

III. ADOPTION AND APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Dan Levy provided background and documentation (The Consent Agenda: A Tool for Improving Governance, BoardSource) on the consent agenda process and fielded questions. After discussion, the Commission determined the consent agenda would be the best practice for efficiency moving forward, and agreed to adopt the process.

On Motion duly made (Commissioner Arbulu) and supported (Commissioner Demashkieh), the consent agenda process was adopted and the January 27, 2014 consent agenda was approved. *Motion carried unanimously.*

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 9, 2013

On Motion duly made (Commissioner Horwitz) and supported (Commissioner Tarver), the meeting minutes from December 9, 2013 were approved. *Motion carried unanimously.*

V. COMMISSION MATTERS

2014 Election of Officers, Commissioner Hunt, Nominating Committee Chair

By unanimous votes for each office, the final results of the 2014 Election of Officers are:

Office of Commission Chair, Commissioner Arthur Horwitz: 6 Yea-0 Nay

Office of Commission Vice- Chair, Commissioner Rasha Demashkieh: 6 Yea-0 Nay

Office of Commission Secretary, Commissioner Jared Rodriguez: 6 Yea-0 Nay

All elected Commissioners will serve as the Executive Council of the Commission, and will serve in their respective offices for a term of one year.

VI. DIVISION REPORTS

Commissioner Horwitz requested that Director Wesaw report on the Department's recent activity.

Director Wesaw reported on the success of the Rosa Parks Day of Courage event; Governor Snyder's Office of New Americans; the updated staff role changes – Leslee Fritz appointed Deputy Director, Mary McLellan liaison to the Asian Pacific Commission, Lee Gonzales liaison to the Hispanic Latino Commission, Charles Schoder liaison to the Arab Chaldean Council, Melissa Claramunt to lead the Bullying Prevention initiative with Rick Olivarez, and John Golaszewski to lead an effort in increasing the number of ALPACT coalitions across the State. The Commission was invited to attend the Department's 50th Anniversary event in Port Huron on February 6th, as well as the All-Agency Meeting on March 13-14 in Novi. Director Wesaw also is working with the Governor's Appointments Office to identify a new commissioner to fill the seat of Mike Zelle, whose term expired December 31, 2013.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Horwitz indicated that follow up interest has been expressed regarding the Tides Foundation Report on LGBT inclusion, and inquired about next steps. Director Wesaw indicated that there is a plan (by external entities) to propose legislation to amend the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include the LGBT community; the Department may be asked to play an advocacy role at a later time. Commissioner Arbulu indicated that he will share contact information with Director Wesaw on advocacy groups in the metro Detroit area.

Commissioner Zelle asked Ron Robinson the status of the Barash case; Mr. Robinson has not received any new information, but will provide an update at the next Commission Meeting.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

MDCR, ex rel. Barbara Smith v. CountrySide Townhouses (Rule 12)
Designation of Lead Case Commissioner

Commissioner Tarver was designated as lead case commissioner by blind-draw. Dan Levy and Ron Robinson will consult with Commissioner Tarver.

IX. GUEST SPEAKER PRESENTATIONS – Topic: Immigration

Professor David Koelsch, University of Detroit Mercy Law School

Mr. Koelsch reported on immigration issues specific to the metro Detroit area, including: Immigrant population (younger and higher educated), their impact on economic viability, and the State's efforts to attract and retain immigrant businesses, students and workers.

Steve Tobocman, Global Detroit

Mr. Tobocman reported on strategic efforts that Global Detroit is working on to revitalize Metro Detroit's economy, including: Michigan Global Talent Retention Initiative, Welcoming Michigan, ProsperUS Detroit and Welcome Mat Detroit (hand-outs were provided). He also announced the 2014 Global Great Lakes Gathering is scheduled for June 11-13 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

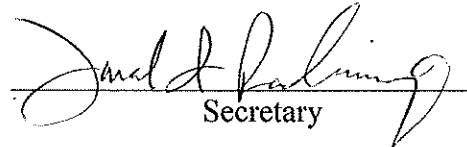
X. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission adjourned at 4:28 p.m.


Director


Secretary